

JAMES YANCY

HAYDEN

Weekly Arizonian, 3/3/59, 3-1.

Indian Depredations.-- Also on the same day (12/13/58) took eleven mules from Mr Yancy, at Tubac, and being pursued, lanced three mules.

-----

Weekly Arizonian, 3/10/59, 2-3.

On the night of the 5th inst., two pack animals were taken from Mr. Yancy, at Tubac, by Apaches, and two days after retaken from the Apaches by the Papggoes. Within the past twenty months Mr. Yancy has had over a hundred mules stolen by Indians.

-----

Weekly Arizonian, 10/6/59, 2-2.

On the afternoon of Thursday, the 29th ult. (Sept. 29th) the ~~Arizona~~ Arivaca Ranch, the property of the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company, was visited by a band of Apaches. The herders of the company had in charge at the time over a hundred head of stock and succeeded in driving in some sixty head of stock -- the balance the Indians drove off. Fortunately, upon the alarm being given, Mr. Istorop, was at the ranch, and with six others, immediately mounted and followed them, and at a distance of a few miles succeeded in recovering all the stock stolen except twenty head -- thirteen of which belonged to the company. Mr. Yancey of Tubac, lost a valuable mule, and the balance were owned by parties working at the mine. In their pursuit they were discovered by the Indians, who made off with the fleetest horses.....

Arizona Citizen, 2/15/94. (See Schuchard M.S.)

(Member of party which started from San Francisco in Oct. 1854, with P.R.Brady, Chas. D.Poston, Schuchard and others to explore the Ajo and surrounding mines. Also one of the original members of the Sonora Mining and Exploring Co.)

-----

Weekly Arizonian, 10/6/59, 2-2.

(Indians ran off over 100 horses from near Arivaca ranch. Mr. Yancey of Tubac, lost a valuable mule, 13 were owned by the Sonora Exploring and Mining Co... and the balance belonged to parties working as the mine.)

-----

Yancey, James

Census, 1860; Tucson. p. 48.

Age 32; trader; b. Tenn.

Ana M. Yancey, age 20; b. Mex.

ed. Charles

FROM  
Arizona Daily Citizen  
Feb. 15, 1894.

ARIZONA ARGONAUTS

HAYDEN

Pioneers that were Pioneers. Early and Interesting  
Arizona History.

The following article was published in part, in the Mining and Scientific Press in the Spring of 1883. For a copy of same are indebted to Mr. C. C. Hayward, now a resident of New York, who was a member of the expedition referred to. He came to Arizona in 1854 and had temporary charge of the Cerro Colorado and Heintzelman Mine and reduction works at La Arivaca at the time of its collapse in 1861, at which time several Americans were killed. Mr. Hayward writes that he has never been able to satisfy himself as to the author of the article in question.

A few days <sup>ago</sup> I came across your publication of "Early History of the Comstock," December 16, 1882. As the writer of that article seems to be anxious to establish true historical facts, I will make a few additional remarks.

It was in the Spring of 1858 when Comstock presented to Major R. Allen, then Quartermaster General, in his office in San Francisco, a piece of black ore from Washoe. Allen showed the same to Mr. Killaly, a miner from Real del Monte, Mexico, and to me. Both of us pronounced it at once very rich sulphuret of silver, still an assay was insisted on. Killaly took the specimen to his office and there we made the assay, which was between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per ton. Shortly after I learned that Killaly was dead.

# NOTE: In the California State Library this same article appears under the caption, "The First Silver Miner on the Coast; Some Interesting Scraps of Early History. (Written for the Press by Chas. Schuchard".

The excitement about this rich discovery had killed him. Major Allen promised to me to go to Washoe to examine Comstock's discovery, but I declined and returned to Arizona. If I do recollect right, you may find some notes on this in Blake's Mining Magazine, published at that time.

In regard to the first working of silver mines on the Pacific slope, after the country came into the possession of the United States, there is no doubt that it was in that part of Arizona south of the Gila, correct and the first mining office opened in San Francisco was that of the A. M. & T. Co., In the year 1854 I came with Colonel A. B. Gray on the preliminary survey of the Southern Pacific Railroad across the country south of the Gila, at that time known as the Gadsden Purchase or Mesilla valley. In the month of June we arrived in San Francisco. The interest in the Southern Pacific railroad was then at high pitch. The information given by us did not fail to create some excitement, particularly our statement about the mineral wealth, although we could not offer substantial proof of this. A large collection of minerals gathered on the trip, including specimens of silver and copper ores, was buried by the boys in the Colorado Desert, as useless stuff when the highly interesting pack-mule that carried the provisions and frying-pans declined to accompany us any further. Enterprising men like Major R. Allen, United States army, J. D. Wilson, William Blanding, A. S. Wright and others concluded to send out an exploring party under direction of E. E. Dunbar.

In October we completed our outfit in Los Angeles, and started twenty men strong toward Fort Yuma. The company was named the Arizona Mining and Trading Co. I will give you here the names of some of the company: E. E. Dunbar, McElroy, F. Ronstadt, P. Brady, G. Kibbers, George Williams, Joe Yancey, Dr. Webster, Porter, Charles Hayward, Bendel, Cook, myself etc. Taking the road by Tinaja Alta, we heard of the Ajo copper mines, about 90 miles east, south of east of Yuma, where we left six men to hold possession as best they could. Fourteen of us continued to hunt for the Arizona mountains and the celebrated silver mine, Plancha de la Plata, of which it is stated in Ward's Mexico, that a piece of native silver of 2,700 pounds had been taken out ~~XXXXXXXX~~ by the spaniards. After several months of search we discovered this mine, finding first a piece of pure silver of about four ounces. A few days after a piece of 19 pounds was taken out of old shallow diggings, overgrown by stout oak trees.

About this time our party at the copper mine was attacked early in the morning by a company of Mexican soldiers, headed by the Prefect and other authorities, who demanded the delivery of the mine, as owned in by Mexicans. (The boundary line had not been run then.) The commission was at Fort Yuma or below. They threatened to take it by force if not surrendered inside of two hours. Mr. Hayward's spirited answer, "We don't think of surrendering; if you want to fight let us begin before the sun gets hot," settled that question. The troops retired to the Presidio del Altar, Sonora, just in time to receive the news of our discovery of the long lost Plancha de la Plata.

(Forty-five Mexicans had worked and abandoned the mine, two years before all hands but one having been killed by Apaches. Immediately our party was ordered to leave the country, knowing our latitude, and being well aware that we had no right in Mexican Territory, we thought it prudent to comply.

From the Ajo copper mine the first lot of exceedingly rich ore was shipped to San Francisco in 1856 by the Arizona Mining and Trading Company. The name of this company has been instrumental in conferring the name of "Arizona" to the Gadsden purchase. The Arizona Mountains proper are situated in Sonora. In San Francisco I was acquainted with a very old Mexican gentleman who saw that piece of silver. He procured another outfit to work mines near Tucson. Worked first a copper mine about thirty-five miles west from there, and then a silver mine near San Xavier del Bac, for which a company was organized in 1856. The whole outfit for this, which after much delay arrived at Yuma, was afterward lost with man and beast in the desert between Maricopa Wells and the copper mine. Only one man escaped, Cook, this crippled the enterprise so much that it came to a standstill.

About this time Mr. Herman Ehrenberg, who had been for some time on the Gila and in Sonora, had formed in New York the Sonora ~~AMXX~~ Exploring and Mining Company, of which Samuel Colt of Hartford, William T. Coleman, C. D. Posten, Major Hartley were directors. This company arrived, with Mr. Posten, Ehrenberg and Brunkow, M. E., in 1857 in Arizona, and took up headquarters in the deserted town of Tubac.

6.

Shortly after I joined this company. We discovered, besides many silver mines in the Santa Rita mountains, those at Cerro, Colorado and La Arivaca. There at the Heintzelman mine active mining operations were commenced at once, and very rich ore taken out. A lot of 22 tons, taken in 1858 to San Francisco, yielded at the works of Wass, Uzney & Warwick, \$450 per ton, other ore smelted at the mine \$900 per ton. We were buying lead ores for flux from the then recently opened Patagonia mine, worked by old man Douglass and others. In 1858 Mr. Guido Kustel brought out a large lot of machinery for the Heintzelman mine for the reduction of silver ores by the harrel process. From that time the country became more and more settled.

The following are the names of the Company above referred to. Dunbar, Webster, Doten, Kipper, Graham, Sheppard, Cook, Brady, Sackett, Stan, Posten, Yancey, McElroy, Gilbert, Hayward, Ronstadt, Schu<sup>ch</sup>ard, Bendel, Pearmit and Williams.

Schuchard

Weekly Arizonian

4/28/59, 3:1

Distances from Tubac (to the mines)

Dr. Ehrenberg has furnished another table:

To San Xavier (mine) 35 miles; silver, opened in 1856,  
place of forming company, San Francisco; owned by Mr. Schuchard  
and others.



*W. H. De Armit*

DE ARMITT, BERRY HILL, born at Hollidaysburg, Huntingdon (now Blair) County, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1828; probably a son of John De Armitt of that County who was of French Huguenot ancestry; married, Maria Garcia Ortiz (1831-86) at Pitiquito, Sonora, Mexico, in 1856; children, Charles, Juan, Magdalena (Mrs. Pablo Yescas), Margaret (Mrs. Jesus Garcia), Matilda (Mrs. Feliciano Contreras) and Julia (Mrs. Jesus Alvarez);

Was in San Francisco, California, in the summer of 1854 when Edward E. Dunbar organized the Arizona Mining and Grading Company to engage in the development of mines in the Gadsden Purchase and was one of a party which left there in October on the steamer Senator for San Pedro; at Los Angeles, they obtained horses and pack mules and crossed the desert to Port Yuma; a narrative entitled "An Arizona Adventure", by "W" printed in the Yuma Arizona Sentinel of March 30, 1878, states that;

Of the 20 all young men that came down into this wilderness, there are but 8 left, Pete Brady, now Sheriff of Pinal county; B. Hill DeArmit, of Florence, Arizona; James Doten, of Yuma; J.R. McElroy, a miner of Calaveras County, California; Jas. Porter, of San Francisco; Oliver C. Hayward, now farming in Canada; Joe Yancey, a rancher in San Diego; and the writer, who is a most accomplished vagabond, always on the go, looking for something better and never finding it.

Our original intention was to go by Tucson and from there to the Rancho de la Arizona, where we were to make our headquarters, but Pete Brady had come through Sonoita with Col. Gray, on the first trans-continental railroad survey in 1852, and while there had seen some very rich specimens of copper ore, rich in silver and gold. So we decided to go by Sonoita and to relocate the Ajo mine, if it was unoccupied. It had been originally located by a company in Sonora, of which Governor Candaba was one. But the men, who had been sent to work the mine, had been murdered by the Indians, and the company had never sent a second force out to the mine.

At Sonoita we found some specimens and a guide. He was the majordomo of Don Chico Redondo at his ranch at Sonoita, and the only man who knew where the mine was, as he was the only man who escaped when the Indians jumped the mine in 1850. Volunteers were called for to hold the mine, while the main body went on to search for the great Planchas de Plata. O.C. Hayward, James Porter, B. Hill DeArmit, Shepard and the writer (five of us) volunteered to go and take possession of the great Ajo mine; and it is a great and rich mine.

The first ore that we took from the vein was a native and red oxide, working 75 per cent of copper, and giving 3 ounces of gold and 14 ounces of silver to every 100 pounds of ore. After we got returns of the assays, we built great air castles and made plans for enjoying our great wealth. Having been a sailor, I was going to build me a copper steam-yacht, and travel as a gentleman of leisure. But the sweets of expectation were beginning to pall, and we were needing some excitement, when it came with a crash to our feelings, in the form of a demand from Governor Gandara, of Sonora, to vacate instantly, as his company was coming to work the mine.

Several letters passed between us and the Governor of Sonora, and we finally found that he meant business. We learned that a Company of soldiers was on the way from Ures, to drive us off the mine. Then we sent a dispatch to the main body of our Company. They sent down 4 men; that made 9 of us to fight 100, which was the number we heard were coming. However, we were determined not to give up the mine; we had every right to it; the former claimants had abandoned it for more than the time allowed by the Mexican laws; and it was fully forty miles this side of the new boundary.

After the enemy arrived at Sonolita, we kept a sentinel out all the time. One morning, a little after sunrise, he came rushing in with the news that the enemy was in sight. We had built us a breastwork at the water, and were all there waiting. Presently they came in sight and ranged themselves on a hill about 200 yards off, and then sent in the same man who had guided us out, with a flag of truce. He came calling to Charlie Hayward not to shoot. He delivered his message from the commander, that he wishes to send his second-in-command in to treat with us.

They numbered 42, but we afterwards found that 8 were miners, leaving 36 soldiers; making four to one, as there were but 9 of us. But what we lacked in numbers we made up in arms, as we had 84 shots, without stopping to load, and we all, with one exception, had been in business before.

When the Lieutenant arrived he delivered a message from his captain to the effect that he had been sent to take possession, peacefully if he could, but to take possession. He pointed out to his force and told us to compare our numbers with his, and tried to convince us that we could not have a ghost of a show in a combat; and finally told us, that if we would give up our arms we might leave in peace. Our answer was, that he might have our arms, but he must come and take them.

That they did not like; and the Captain soon found that he would have to fight if he got the mine. He either had his orders not to go to extremities, or he thought his party would get the worst of a fight. He finally agreed to leave us in peaceful possession, if we would give him and his men water, which we did after they brought in their arms and stacked them in our fort. It was a great bluff they made at us, but they took it all back, and from that time we were not troubled.

Soon after this our President went to San Francisco and got a charter and incorporated. When he returned, we all went to the Gila and settled up our company affairs and received our certificates of stock. Then the boys scattered. Some of them stayed at the mine till the working supplies came; then there was more scattering.

The first President (Dunbar) was appointed Superintendent, and he commenced working in earnest, but without accomplishing much; nor did any of the Superintendents who followed him. For the mine is not more developed today than it was 24 years ago. And I say again, that if another company takes hold of it, with money to back them, they can open up one of the finest mines of the Coast.

Went with his family to Arizona City (Yuma) where he was listed in the 1860 Census as Berry H. Hill, occupation - Blacksmith, property valued at \$1,500; in the Territorial Census taken in the spring of 1864 at Tucson his name appears as Hill De Arnett, occupation - Contractor, resident in Arizona 10 years, property valued at \$1,000; in describing a visit to the Papago Country with Charles D. Poston in 1864, J. Ross Browne makes the following mention of him:

We visited the Bahia, a silver lode of extraordinary richness belonging to the Calumet Mining Company. There are also very fine copper mines in the vicinity. Mr. Hill d'Amit, who was a member of our party on the trip to Sonora, is largely interested in one of these and considers it one of the best copper leads in the country - quite equal to the celebrated Maricopa lead on the Gila.

Appointed by Governor Goodwin as Hill de Arnitte to be Sheriff for the 1st Judicial District, April 9, 1864; reappointed by the Governor on December 21, 1864, as the first sheriff of Pima County and served until January 1, 1868; <sup>in 1869</sup> moved to Florence where he was listed in the U.S. Census, 1870, as Berry Hildearnit, occupation - Farmer, property valued at \$1,250; appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Pinal County as road viewer on April 19, 1875; registered as a voter in Pinal County, 1876, as Berry H. de Armitt; elected Trustee of the Florence School District, November 21, 1878; joined the Society of Arizona Pioneers at Tucson, March 15, 1884; owned a 20 acre farm near Florence

at the time of his death which was announced in the Arizona Enterprise as follows:

One of the earliest settlers in this valley, B.H. De Armitt, better known as Hill De Armitt, died at the County Hospital on January 24, 1891, from injuries received several months ago in falling from his wagon while returning home from town.

Buried in the town cemetery, 3 miles south of Florence; age at death, 63.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- U.S. Census, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, 1840.  
Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Tucson - Membership book, p. 59.  
History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Part 2, pp. 541, 675.  
Probate Court of Pinal County, A.T., - Pocket No. 123,  
The Great Register of Pinal County - November 1, 1876.  
Board of Supervisors, Pinal County, A.T., - Minutes, April 19, 1875, and  
November 21, 1878.  
Drowne, J.R. - Adventures in the Apache Country, N.Y., 1874, p. 284.  
Darney, J.H. - Political Activities of the Territorial Governors, 1864-73,  
Manuscript, pp. 3 and 8.  
W.P.A. Historical Records Survey - Inventory of Pima County Archives,  
1938, Manuscript, p. 4.  
The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, March 30, 1878, p. 1, c. 2.  
The Arizona Enterprise, Florence, January 31, 1891 (obituary).  
The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, April 8, 1937.